

made of a material having a wear coefficient substantially equivalent to said wear coefficient of the layer made of a nonmagnetic material.

19. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 18, wherein the first sublayers are made of a material similar to that of the thin magnetic layer with a magnetooptic effect.

20. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 18, wherein the second sublayers are made of a material similar to that of the layer made of a nonmagnetic material.

21. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 19, wherein the layer with a magnetooptic effect is made of a material based on iron, silicon and aluminum ($Fe_xSi_yAl_z$) or based on iron, tantalum and nitrogen ($Fe_xTa_yN_z$).

22. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 20, wherein the layer made of a nonmagnetic material is made of a material based on silicon and nitrogen (Si_xN_y).

A. 23. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 18, wherein a thickness of the first sublayers is less than a diameter of the particles coming from wear of the materials of the read head or of a medium to be read.

24. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 23, wherein a thickness of the first sublayers is between 10 and 50 nm.

25. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 24, wherein a thickness of the second sublayers is a few tens of nanometers.

26. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 25, comprising a few tens of first sublayers that alternate with a few tens of second sublayers. 112

27. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a reflecting layer located between the nonmagnetic layer and the layer of good magnetic permeability.

28. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 27, wherein the reflecting layer is made of gold or of copper.

29. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a layer of an optical coupling material placed against the layer with a magnetooptic effect.

30. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 29, wherein the optical coupling layer is made of silicon.

31. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 18, wherein the layer of good magnetic permeability is coated with a protective layer on its face that faces away from the layer of a nonmagnetic material.

32. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 31, wherein the protective layer is made of Si_xN_y .

33. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a backplate adhesively bonded to the layer of good magnetic permeability or to the protective layer.

34. (New) The read head as claimed in claim 33, wherein the layer with a magnetooptic effect is supported by a substrate, a sidewall of a stack of layers comprising:

a substrate;

a layer with a magnetic effect;

a layer with good magnetic permeability;

a backplate,

the stack of layers forming an active face of the magnetic head and a thicknesses of the backplate and of the substrate measured on said sidewall are substantially equal.

objection

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please cancel the original Abstract page 23 in its entirety and insert therefor: